

MAY 14 2007

Docket No. 500.44691X00

Serial No. 10/522,772

Office Action dated February 22, 2007**REMARKS**

By the present Amendment, claims 14 and 20 have been amended.

Claims 9-13 and 15-19 have been cancelled, with any prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, claims 1-8, 14, and 20 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 14, and 20 are independent.

In the Office Action of February 22, 2007, claims 9-13 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 2002-162623 to Ono et al. ("Ono"). The Examiner's indication that claims 1-8 are allowed, and that claims 14 and 20 would be allowable, if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is noted with appreciation.

In rejecting claims 9-13 and 15-19, the Office Action alleges that Ono discloses all the features of the claimed invention.

By the present Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 9-13 and 15-19, thereby rendering this particular ground of rejection moot.

Applicants have also amended claim 14 to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in independent claim 9, as well as the subject matter recited in the intervening claims. Claim 20 has likewise been amended to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in independent claim 15, as well as the subject matter recited in all of the intervening claims. Since the Office Action indicated that these claims would be allowable if presented in such independent form, claims 14 and 20 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Further, all of the claims pending in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance.

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For the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is believed in order, and courteously solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are any matters which can be resolved by way of either a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

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AUTHORIZATION

Applicants request any shortage or excess in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and for which no other form of payment is offered, be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 500.44691X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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